AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A ~~Process~~ process for the treatment of leathers or skins with anionic reagents in an aqueous liquor, wherein the leathers or skins are ~~,~~ pretanned with dialdehydes and retanned with organic tanning agents, ~~with anionic reagents in an aqueous liquor, in which~~

said process comprising

a) adding ~~either~~ an anionic reagent together with (i) or (ii) to the aqueous liquor, and allowing the combination to act on the leather, wherein (i) is at least one organic polyamine having at least three amino groups in the molecule, ~~or~~ and (ii) is mixtures or reaction products (1) of such polyamines with (2) at least one alkylsilane having organic oxy radicals bonded to the silicon atom and a functional group bonded to the alkyl group so that said reaction products have at least two free amino groups in the molecule, wherein said functional group ~~forming~~ forms covalently bonded bridging groups with an amino group of the polyamine, ~~are added to the liquor and allowed to act on the leather,~~ or

b) ~~or~~ first treating the leather ~~is first treated~~ with an anionic reagent ~~reagents~~ and then, in the same or a fresh liquor, allowing (i) or (ii) to act on the treated material, wherein (i) and (ii) are as defined above, ~~at least one organic polyamine having at least three amino groups in the molecule, or mixtures or reaction products (1) of such polyamines with (2) at least one alkylsilane having organic oxy radicals bonded to the silicon atom and a functional group bonded to the alkyl group so that said reaction products have at least two free amino groups in the molecule, said functional group forming a covalently bonded bridging group with an amino group of the polyamine, is or are allowed to act on the treated material,~~ or

c) ~~or the~~ first treating the leather ~~is first treated~~ with (i) or (ii), and then allowing an anionic reagent to act on the treated material in the same or a fresh liquor, wherein (i) is an organic polyamine having at least three amino groups in the molecule, and (ii) is as defined above. ~~or mixtures or reaction products (1) of such polyamines with (2) at least one alkylsilane having organic oxy radicals bonded to the silicon atom and a functional group bonded to the alkyl group so that said reaction products have at least~~

~~two free amino groups in the molecule, said functional group forming a covalently bonded bridging group with an amino group of the polyamine, and the anionic reagents are then allowed to act on the treated material in the same or a fresh liquor.~~

2. (Currently amended) The ~~Process~~ process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the anionic reagent ~~reagents are~~ is selected from the group consisting of fatliquoring agents, water repellents, organic tanning and retanning agents or dyes which have at least one acidic group.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~Process~~ process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the anionic ~~auxiliaries~~ reagent is ~~are~~ used in an amount of from 0.1 to 30% by weight, based on the shaved weight of the leathers or the skins.

4. (Currently amended) The ~~Process~~ process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in~~ wherein ~~that~~ the ~~auxiliary~~ reagent is an anionic dye.

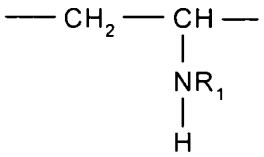
5. (Currently amended) The ~~Process~~ process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the polyamines are selected from the group consisting of low molecular weight, oligomeric or polymeric compounds which are soluble in polar solvents and ~~also~~ in water.

6. (Currently amended) The ~~Process~~ process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the polyamines are low molecular weight compounds, and wherein the low molecular weight polyamines are saturated or unsaturated, open-chain, mono- or polycyclic compounds which contain 6 to 30 C atoms.

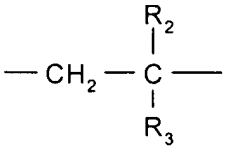
7. (Currently amended) The ~~Process~~ process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the polyamines are oligomers or polymers in which the amino groups are bonded either directly or via a bridging group to the polymer backbone or in the polymer backbone.

8. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the oligomers ~~contain~~ comprise from 3 to 100 identical or different monomer units, and the polymers ~~, preferably from 3 to 50 and particularly preferably from 3 to 30 and the polymers~~ comprise more than 100 and up to about 28,000 identical or different monomer units.

9. (Currently amended) The ~~Process~~ process according to Claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the oligomers and polymers ~~contain~~ comprise at least one repeating structural element of the formula II and optionally at least one repeating structural element of the formula III:



(II),



(III),

~~in which~~wherein

R_1 is H or C_1-C_4alkyl,

R_2 is H or methyl,

R_3 is H, C_1-C_{17}alkyl, phenyl, methylphenyl, pyrrolidinyl, Cl, -O-C_1-C_4alkyl, -O-(CO)-C_1-C_4alkyl, -C(O)-OR_4 or –C(O)-NR_5R_6,

R_4 is H or C_1-C_{18}alkyl and

R_5 and R_6, independently of one another, are H or C_1-C_4alkyl.

10. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the oligomers and polymers are adducts of organic diamines and aziridine or a polyethylenamine.

11. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the adducts contain repeating structural elements of the formula IV and optionally repeating structural elements of the formula V:

$$-(NR_{16}CH_2-CH_2)- \qquad (IV),$$

$$-NR_{16}-R_7-NR_{16}- \qquad (V),$$

terminal groups R_8 being bonded to the ends of the chains, ~~in which~~ wherein
R_7 is C_2-C_{12}alkylene, C_5-C_8cycloalkylene or C_6-C_{10}arylene,
R_8 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{18}alkoxy or C_1-C_{18}alkylamino and
the R_{16}'s, independently of one another, are H or C_1-C_4alkyl.

12. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the adducts are oligomers having 3 to 15 structural elements of the formula IV and optionally repeating structural elements of the formula V.

13. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the content of repeating structural elements of the formula IV is from 50 to 100 mol%, ~~and~~ the content of repeating structural elements of the formula V is from 50 to 0 mol%.

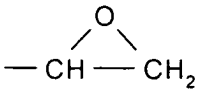
14. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an alkylsilane having organic oxy radicals bonded to the silicon atom and a functional group bonded to the alkyl group is additionally concomitantly used, either as a mixture with the polyamine or as a reaction product with the polyamine, the amino groups of the polyamine and the functional group together forming a covalently bonded bridging group.

15. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the functional silane corresponds to the formula VI~~:~~;

$$(R_{13}O)_3\text{–Si–}R_{14}\text{–}X_1 \qquad \text{(VI)}$$

~~in which~~wherein

~~R_{13} is C_1-C_4alkyl and in particular methyl;~~ R_{13} is C_1-C_4alkyl, R_{14} is $-(CH_2)_3$-O-CH_2- and X_1 is an epoxide group of the formula



or R_{14} is C_2-C_6alkylene and X_1 is -NCO or -C(O)OR_{15}, in which R_{15} is hydrogen or C_1-C_4alkyl.

16. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the amount of functional ~~alkylsilanes~~ alkylsilane in the composition with the polyamine is ~~preferably~~ from 1 to 60% by weight, based on the total amount of polyamine and functional alkylsilane.

17. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the polyamine or the mixture or reaction product of polyamine and alkylsilane is used in an amount of from 0.1 to 30% by weight, based on the shaved weight of the fibrous material.

18. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 1, which is carried out at from room temperature to 60°C.

19-34. (Cancelled)

35. (New) The process according to Claim 8, wherein the oligomers comprise from 3 to 50 identical or different monomer units.

36. (New) The process according to Claim 8, wherein the oligomers comprise from 3 to 30 identical or different monomer units.